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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 06832 01 OF 03 171748Z
ACTION PC-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 L-03 CPR-01 /025 W
----------069595 171838Z /42
P 171640Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3297

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BRASILIA 6832

TOPEC

JOINT EMBASSY/PEACE CORPS MESSAGE

FOR: SMITH IO/LA

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJ: AUGUST PEACE CORPS GROUP

REFS: (A) STATE 192216, (B) BRASILIA 6341, (C) BRASILIA 6400,
(D) BRASILIA 6474, (E) BRASILIA 6530, (F) BRASILIA 6773.

1. FOLLOWING ARE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE CONCERNING THE ARRIVAL OF THE AUGUST PCV GROUP, AS COVERED IN REFTELS:

A. CHRONOLOGY

2. PC DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY MET WITH DR. MURILLO PORTUGAL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SUBINN, SECRETARIAT OF PLANNING, ON MARCH 2 IN WORKING MEETING TO REVIEW PROJECT SUBMISSION FORMAT.

3. THE SUBMISSION WITH COVER LETTER AND PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS IN PORTUGUESE FOR AUGUST GROUP WERE HAND CARRIED TO SUBIN ON MARCH 11. SUBIN, UPON RECEIPT OF THE PROJECTS, REVIEWED AND SENT THEM TO THE SUBSTANTIVE MINISTRIES; I.E., HEALTH, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, FOR TECHNICAL APPROVAL. ONCE THIS TECHNICAL APPROMAL WAS COMPLETE, SUBIN REVIEWED THE PROPOSALS AGAIN.
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4. ON MAY 10 PC DIRECTOR, DEPUTY AND REGIONAL STAFF OFFICERS MET WITH SUBIN DIRECTOR, DR. ADERBAL COSTA, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DR. MURILLO PORTUGAL, FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS AS TO PC PROGRAM AND SUBIN NEEDS.

5. ON MAY 17 SUBIN CALLED PC AND ADVISED THAT IT HAD APPROVED

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ALL PROJECTS AND HAD SENT THEM TO THE DIVISION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

6. ON JUNE 22 PC DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY MET WITH DR. SERGIO TAPAJOS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION, FOREIGN MINISTRY. PC DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY INQUIRED AS TO CLEARANCE PROCESS FOR AUGUST PCV GROUP. THEY WERE ASSURED THAT EVERYTHING WAS FINE BUT THAT THE MINISTRY REQUIRED A LIST OF THE PCV NAMES BY PROJECT NUMBERS.

7. IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT FOR THE FEBRUARY 1977 PCV GROUP, FOR THE FIRST TIME AND AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, ON JANUARY 27, TWO DAYS BEFORE STAGING IN MIAMI, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ASKED FOR PCV NAMES BY PROJECT NUMBERS. THE MINISTRY SAID THAT THEY WOULD AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE BY THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OF TOURIST VISAS TO AVOID DELAY OF PCV ARRIVALS AND UNTIL THEY RECEIVED THE LIST OF NAMES. THE PCVS DID INDEED ARRIVE AS PLANNED ON FEBRUARY 1. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE LIST OF NAMES BY PROJECTS WAS SUBMITTED AND THE PCV TOURIST VISAS WERE CHANGED TO OFFICIAL VISAS. IN THE PAST, UP TO FEBRUARY 1977, PCVS WERE AUTOMATICALLY GRANTED OFFICIAL VISAS BY THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON UPON PRESENTATION OF THEIR PASSPORTS BY PC/WASHINGTON.

8. ON JULY 18 THE CONSUL SENT A REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL VISAS GIVING PCV NAMES BY PROJECTS AS REQUESTED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIDENTIAL

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IN FEBRUARY AND RECONFIRMED BY TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION AS ONLY REQUIREMENT.

9. IN THE PAST, THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY DIFFICULTY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROVAL OF PCVS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 1977 LAST-MINUTE REQUEST WHICH WAS RESOLVED. ON JULY 29, AGAIN TWO DAYS BEFORE THE PCVS WERE TO ARRIME FOR STAGING IN MIAMI, AT 7:00 P.M., THE CHARGE WAS CALLED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ADVISED THAT FOR THE AUGUST 1977 PCV GROUP, THEY WANTED A CURRICULUM VITAE ON ALL THE PCVS BY PROJECT AND THAT A TOURIST VISA ON AN INTERIM BASIS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

10. ON AUGUST 1, IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR HERMES ARAUJO (CHIEF, WESTERN HEMISPHERE DEPARTMENT), AND MINISTER HOSANNAH, CHARGE RAISED THE VISA PROBLEM, EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE EFFECT OF THIS NEW AND SUDDEN REQUIREMENT ON THE WELFARE OF THE VOLUNTEERS ALREADY IN MIAMI AND EXPECTING TO DO SERVICE ON PROJECTS ALREADY APPROVED BY BRAZILIAN AGENCIES. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, AUGUST 2, DURING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, MINISTER HOSANNAH ASSURED CHARGE THAT HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO EXPEDITE THE VISA PROCESS AND THAT

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THE MINISTRY WAS WAITING FOR THE CURRICULA VITAE.

11. ON AUGUST 4, THE CHARGE, VICE CONSUL, PC DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR MET AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH MINISTER HOSANNAH, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CONSULAR AND JURIDICAL AFFAIRS AND DR. MAURO SERGIO COUTO, DIRECTOR, TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION. CURRICULUM VITAE BY PROJECT FOR THE 88 VOLUNTEERS NOW IN MIAMI WERE PRESENTED TO BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS WITH VERBAL STATEMENT THAT EMBASSY'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE WOULD FOLLOW AND THAT THE SUBMISSION WAS MADE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE LEGAL POSITION OF EITHER SIDE, IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE VISAS. MINISTER HOSANNNAH SAID THAT A RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

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ACTION PC-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 L-03 CPR-01 /025 W
----------070355 171837Z /41
P 171640Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3298

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 BRASILIA 6832

TOPEC

JOINT EMBASSY/PEACE CORPS MESSAGE

FOR: SMITH IO/LA

20. IF THE PC PROGRAM IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, WORKING MEETINGS BETWEEN PC DIRECTOR, SUBIN AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WILL BE HELD TO AGREE UPON AN ACTION SCHEDULE FOR THE APPROVAL PROCESS OF PC PROJECTS AND PCV CANDIDATES.

21. A BIODATA FORM WILL BE DRAWN UP WHICH WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THIS CAN REPLACE THE PRE-TRAINING QUESTIONNAIRES NOW BEING SUBMITTED BY THE INVITEES. HOWEVER, THE BIODATA FORM WOULD, OF NECESSITY, HAVE TO CONTAIN A RELEASE STATEMENT SIGNED AND DATED BY THE INVITEE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRIVACY ACT. PC/B WOULD LIKE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S AND PC LEGAL COUNSEL'S RULING ON WHETHER THIS PROCEDURE WOULD BE LEGAL AND NON-PREJUDICIAL TO INVITEES. IN LIEU OF SEPARATE BIODATA

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SUBMISSION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD NOT THE INVITEE'S
APPLICATION FOR A BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL VISA SUFFICE?

22. TO PRECLUDE THE DISAPPROVAL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL
OF AN OFFICIAL VISA TO AN INVITEE AT THE "LAST MINUTE," WOULD
IT BE POSSIBLE TO SET THE CLOSE-OF-INVITATION DATE SIX WEEKS
INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT FOUR WEEKS PRIOR TO THE START OF
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STAGING IN MIAMI? IF SO, WE WOULD TRY TO OBTAIN COMMITMENT FROM
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON A CLEARANCE TIMETABLE UP TO ONE OR
TWO WEEKS BEFORE PCV'S ARRIVE AT STAGING.
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PAGE 01 BRASIL 06832 03 OF 03 171744Z
ACTION PC-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 L-03 CPR-01 /025 W
----------069562 171842Z /41
P 171640Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3299

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 BRASILIA 6832

TOPEC

JOINT EMBASSY/PEACE CORPS MESSAGE

FOR: SMITH IO/LA

12. ON AUGUST 9 DR. COUTO CALLED PC DIRECTOR AND ADVISED
THAT INITIAL LIST OF ABOUT HALF OF APPROVED PCVS WOULD BE
SENT TO THE EMBASSY. ON AUGUST 11 PC DIRECTOR PICKED UP
LIST OF 38 PCVS CLEARED FOR OFFICIAL VISAS FROM DR. COUTO AT
FOREIGN MINISTRY. AT THIS MEETING, DR. COUTO SAID THAT MORE
NAMES WOULD BE CLEARED FOR OFFICIAL VISAS DURING THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 15. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER IT WOULD BE ALL OR
SOME OF THE PCVS.

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13. ON AUGUST 14, 37 PCVS ARRIVED IN BRAZIL WITH 12 GOING
TO TRAINING IN RECIFE, 9 TOSALVADOR, AND 16 TO LAVRAS.

B. POTENTIAL PROBLEM

14. THE PC-GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL AGREEMENT RENEWED ON JUNE 18,
1973, STATES THAT THE HOST AGENCY MAY PARTICIPATE WITH THE PC
IN PROCESS OF SELECTING CANDIDATES FOR THE PROJECT. IT
HAS NO MENTION ABOUT A CURRICULUM VITAE REQUIREMENT BY THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY. THERE IS SOME DOUBT AS TO THE LEGALITY OF
THIS REQUEST. EMBASSY ASKED DEPARTMENT OF STATE LEGAL COUNSEL
TO REVIEW THIS ISSUE. IN THE INTERIM, IN ORDER TO SUBMIT THE
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CURRICULUM VITAE, PCVS IN MIAMI SIGNED A RELEASE FROM THE
PRIVACY ACT ON AUGUST 3. IT IS REQUESTED THAT PC GENERAL
COUNSEL COLLABORATE WITH STATE DEPT. LEGAL COUNSEL IN ARRIVING AT
A JOINT DECISION. EMBASSY AND PC ARE CONCERNED ABOUT USE AND
ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF PCV CURRICULUM VITAE, PARTICULARLY
ABOUT THE STRONG AND VERY LIKELY POSSIBILITY OF THE CURRICULUM
VITAE BEING REFERRED TO THE BRAZILIAN SECURITY APPARATUS FOR
CLEARANCE AND SURVEILLANCE.

15. SHOULD THE CURRICULUM VITAE BECOME A PERMANENT REQUIRE-
MENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH SEEMS TO BE THE CASE, PC
BRAZIL WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO FURNISH A CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE
INVITEES AND BY PROJECT ONE MONTH PRIOR TO STAGING IN MIAMI
WHICH WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE CLOSING DATE OF INVITATIONS IN
US. ALLOWING FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK FOR TRANSMITTAL TO BRAZIL
AND PREPARATION OF THE CURRICULUM VITAE, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
WOULD HAVE ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO AUTHORIZE OFFICIAL VISAS TO
THOSE APPROVED. ON THIS BASIS, INVITEES WHO ARE TURNED DOWN
WOULD BE NOTIFIED ONE WEEK BEFORE STAGING IN MIAMI. IT SEEMS
TO US THAT THIS IS IMPRACTICAL AND UNFAIR TO THE INVITEES WHO
NEED TO SETTLE THEIR PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS. IT
RAISES A VERY REAL QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE REQUIREMENT FOR
A CURRICULUM VITA BY THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CAN BE
MET WITHIN THE PRESENT PC RECRUITMENT SCHEDULE.

C. REASONS FOR VISA DELAY

16. REASONS FOR THIS UNPRECEDENTED PROCEDURE ON THE PART OF
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY BE UNIVERSITY STUDENT DIS-
TURBANCES, CLOSING DOWN OF UNIVERSITIES, IMPRISONMENT OF
STUDENTS, AND USE OF POLICE AND ARMY UNITS ON CAMPUSES WHICH
HAVE MADE THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT VERY SENSITIVE TO ARRIVAL OF
A LARGE GROUP OF COLLEGE-AGE PEOPLE SUCH AS PCVS. THIS COULD BE
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ONE REASON WHY VISAS WERE NOT GRANTED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT VISAS FOR TEACHERS FOR THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN BRASILIA, WHO LIKE PCVS ARE RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES, ALSO WERE DELAYED AND IN SOME CASES HAVE NOT BEEN GRANTED WITH SCHOOL OPENING ON AUGUST 17. AT THE AUGUST 4 MEETING, THE BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS APPEARED RELIEVED TO LEARN THAT PC TRAINING IN RECIFE AND SALVADOR WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN RENTED HOUSES AND NOT ON A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, AND THAT THE THIRD TRAINING SITE WAS AT A SMALL RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL LOCATED ABOUT FIVE HOURS SOUTH OF BELO HORIZONTE IN LAVRAS AND REMOTE FROM ANY LARGE URBAN CENTER.

17. ANOTHER REASON COULD BE THE DELICATE STATE OF RELA-
TIONS BETWEEN THE US AND BRAZIL, TO WHICH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, THE BRAZIL-WEST GERMANY NUCLEAR ACCORD, AND CONTINUING CONCERN OVER PROTECTIONISM IN THE US, AMONG OTHERS, ARE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS, AND WHICH MAY HAVE AFFECTED THE GOB'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PC PROGRAM. OUR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS TRIED TO BE FORTHCOMING AND COOPERATIVE IN EXPEDITING VISAS AND TRIED TO PREVENT THE PEACE CORPS FROM BECOMMING A NEAR SOURCE OF IRRITATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE GOB. IN FACT, IN THE COURSE OF A PRESS BACKGROUNDER ON THE STATE OF US-BRAZILIANS, AUGUST 12, FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN LAMPREIA CITED THE ISSUANCE OF THE VISAS AS ONE ITEM OF EVIDENCE THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE TRYING TO AVOID EPISODES WHICH COULD PRODUCE UNPLEASANT CON SEQUENCES FOR THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP (SEE ALSO USIS MEDIA REACTION REPORT, BRASILIA 6772). WE ARE NOT CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NECESSARILY HAS FULL CONTROL OVER THE VISA ISSUANCE (NOTE DR. COUTO'S REFERENCE TO OTHER MINISTRIES -- REFTEL BRAZILIA 6530) AND, IN FACT THE LAMPREIA COMMENT COULD EVEN BE READ AS A SIGNAL TO THE EMBASSY NOT TO ESCALATE THE ISSUE. IN THE NET, WE REMAIN IN DOUBT WHETHER ALL THE VISAS WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

D. FUTURE ACTIONS
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18. OUR APPROACH FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 15 IS TO CALL DR. COUTO IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM HIM AND TO FOLLOW UP ON THE PENDING 50 NAMES OF PCVS STILL IN MIAMI.

19. TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS AS SOON AFTER HIS RETURN TO BRAZIL ON AUGUST 18, AND DISCUSS WITH HIM THE QUESTION OF AT WHAT POINT AND AT WHAT LEVEL THE EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE EMBASSY AND PC WILL

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TRY TO DETERMINE HOW SOON THE REMAINING PCVS, IN MIAMI WILL BE
CLEARED AND TO ELICIT FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY A STATEMENT ON
GOB ATTITUDES REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE PC PROGRAM IN BRAZIL.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1581764
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUGUST PEACE CORPS GROUP
TAGS: EAID, APER, US, BR, PC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82346b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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